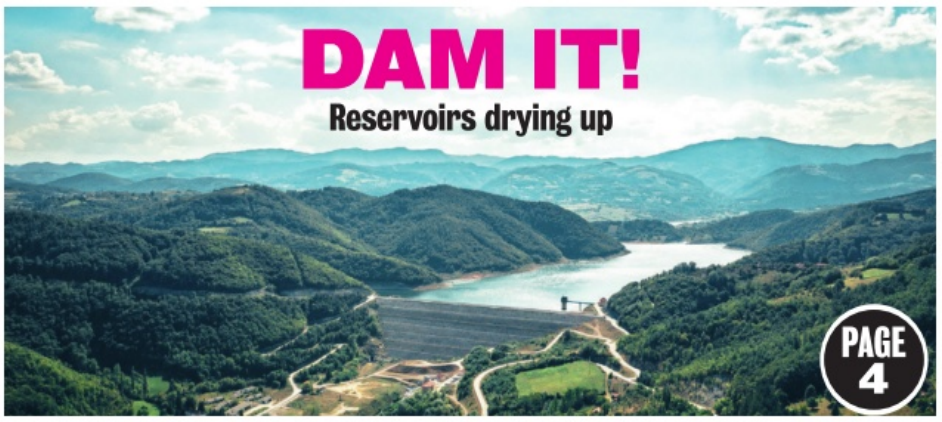
BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 27 | Min 18 | Humidity 45% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 71,892 | Nifty 21,665 | Gold 63,365 | Silver 74,590 | Dollar 83.30 | Euro 91.28 | GBP 105.92



Shoppers avoiding Gandhi Bazaar due to reduced road width, inadequate parking space, long walks from parking area to market, traders say

BAZAAR BLUES

Ongoing project was expected to be completed by October 2023

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The renovation of Gandhi Bazaar Main Road is still a work in progress. The project expected to be completed by October end has been delayed further.

According to the officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), now the road will be open to the public by mid January.

"The project is nearing completion and fine tuning of all the work done is currently on. We will be completing it by mid January and shall open it to the public officially soon after," said M Lokesh, chief engineer, projects, BBMP.

However, the delay in the project and opening of the stretch in its new avatar are becoming a matter of great concern for the traders in the area. Shop owners and traders of Gandhi Bazaar told BM that the week around this New Year turned out to be a damp squib as their businesses were severely hit; nearly 50% down compared to New Year eves

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

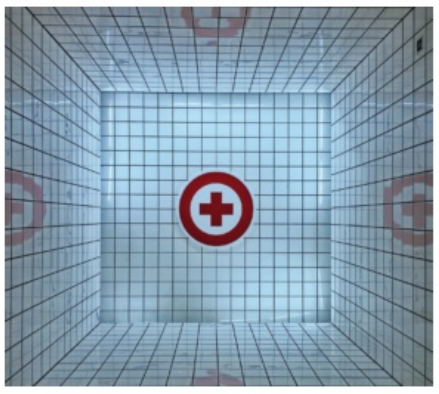
KAUSHIK JN

"Traffic situation has deteriorated due to reduced width of the road; so shoppers are avoiding the market

— M Venkatesh, president, Gandhi Bazaar Traders' Association

Info holes

'No information officers at dispensaries, hospitals maintained by Employees State Insurance Scheme Medical Service at 20 locations'



Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Are dispensaries and hospitals maintained by Employees State Insurance Scheme Medical Service (ESISMS) immune or reluctant to have information officers?

It seems so if one takes into account the reply by the ESISMS administrative officer and state public information officer JC Venkateshaiah.

The administrative officer of ESISMS returned around 20 applications submitted seeking information on dispensaries and hospitals maintained by the ESISMS stating that all those dispensaries and hospitals do not have information officers.

As per Section 5(2) of the RTI Act, 2005, every public authority shall designate an officer, within 100 days of the enactment of the RTI Act, at each sub-divisional level or other sub-district level as a central assistant public information officer or a state assistant public information officer, as the case may be, to receive the applications for information or appeals under this act for forwarding the same forthwith to the central public information officer or the state public information officer or senior officer.

However, the administrative officer of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

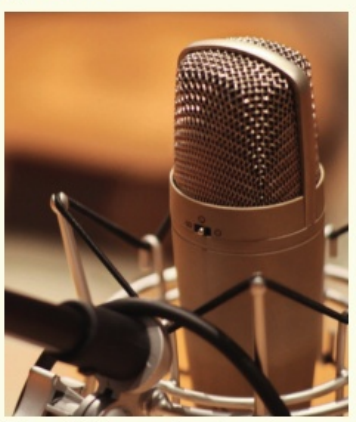
01 Act it out

Tahatto presents the 5th edition of 'Enter Stage Right', a workshop designed to give participants insights into the critical aspects of theatre. Don't miss the chance to tap into your creativity, learn, and apply it in the form of a final performance at the end of the workshop.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar; When: January 6 to 21; 9:30 am to 5:30 pm

02 Traditional steps

Celebrate the richness of Indian classical dances, presented by Venkatesha Natya Mandir. 'Rasa Sanje', an annual dance festival, aims to promote and increase awareness of Indian classical dance. The festival has been known to provide a forum for national and international dancers to show their choreographies. **Where: Ada Ranga Mandira, JC Road; When: January 5,6, and 7; 10 am**

03 Story time



Storyteller Neelesh Misra is set to perform for the first time in the city, where he will narrate stories and film and non-film songs written by him. This is part of his national storytelling journey with his band. The tour has already travelled to Pune and Gurugram. According to him, a storyteller is nothing without his listeners, and there is no greater joy than being able to narrate stories to a live audience. **Where: BR Ambedkar Auditorium; When: January 6; 6 pm**

Mild cases, swift healing

Karnataka reports 199 positive cases of JN.1 variant; city doctors observe increased hospitalisation among elderly and those who have comorbidities

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The number of covid-active cases in Karnataka has crossed the 1,000 mark with total active patients, with 1,144 active cases on Tuesday and so far 199 positive for the JN.1 variant. While the majority of them are home isolation patients, the hospitalisations as well increased to 66, but on the brighter side, the health professionals who have been treating and monitoring some of the hospital-admitted covid patients pointed out that those patients who are admitted as well have shown mild to moderate symptoms, and their recovery period has been faster.

Of the 1,144 active cases, over 1,089 were under home isolation. Only 55 cases required hospitalisation; 23 cases were admitted to the ICU, and 32 cases were admitted to the general bed. One covid death was reported of a 45-year-old male from Vijaynagar district. The case fatality rate was less than 1%, which is 0.67%. With 545 cases, Bengaluru Urban has the highest active cases.

While there has been a significant increase in the number of JN.1 variant cases tested, which are found to be infectious but mild in nature, there is always a worry that the hospitalisations could increase and burden the health care system. However, what the health professionals have so far observed is that the hospitalised patients are mostly the vulnerable population that are admitted, those who are elderly and have comorbidities, and they have also been infected in a mild way and have been stable.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Of the 1,144 active cases, over 1,089 were under home isolation; with 545 cases, Bengaluru Urban has the highest active cases

> **"In terms of telemonitoring the cases, we have observed that the cases are very mild. Even the oxygen requirement has been minimal** –Dr Anoop

Dr Anoop Amarnath, Head, Scientific Board, Chairman-Geriatric Medicine, Manipal Hospital, and member of the State Critical Care Support Team (CCST), said, "In terms of telemonitoring the cases, we have observed that the cases are very mild. Even the oxygen requirement has been minimal. Similar to what we saw during the Omicron strain. We are seeing sore throat symptoms, along with upper and lower respiratory tract infections. Those requiring hospitalisations have comorbidities and are on oxygen, but they have also been fairly mild cases and are requiring a shorter duration of stay. During the second wave, we saw severe lung involvement and blood clotting issues, but after that, we are seeing more flu-like symptoms."

Dr Shivraj AL, Consultant - Pulmonology, Manipal Hospital Varthur Road, disclosed that the most common age group affected by covid-19 is the elderly population, especially those who are over 50 years old. "When considering comorbid conditions, individuals with chronic lung diseases such as interstitial lung disease (ILD), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), patients undergoing dialysis, and those with uncontrolled diabetes are at a higher risk. These patients, with such underlying health issues, are more susceptible to the impact of the virus. The symptoms observed in these patients are influenza-like symptoms such as persistent fever lasting for 3 to 4 days, along with a dry cough, breathlessness, fatigue, weakness, loss of appetite, and loss of taste and smell," he said.

Currently, there's around 4 to 5 covid-19 patients who are hospitalised, with only 2 requiring oxygen support. No patients are on ventilators, he added.

There have been seven cases of covid patients admitted at Victoria Hospital and three at Vani Vilas Hospital. Dr Ravi, HOD, Department of Medicine, Victoria Hospital, said that patients were incidentally detected to be positive.

While they came in with health issues like COPD, hypertension, diabetes, and tuberculosis, when tested, they were found to be covid-19 positive. "Currently, they are in the ICU and require oxygenation. They are being treated for their comorbidities," he added.

JN.1 linked to anxiety and sleep issues

Health authorities in the UK have identified anxiety and trouble sleeping as new symptoms of the latest covid-19 sub-variant, JN.1, according to a report. JN.1, from the lineage of Omicron, was first detected in August and is currently present in over 40 countries. It has been classified as a variant of interest (VOI) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) due to its rapid spread. JN.1 is a descendant lineage of BA.2.86. In comparison with BA.2.86, JN.1 has the additional L455S mutation in the spike protein, making it more transmissible. However, no signs of new or unusual symptoms caused by the virus have been reported yet.

So far, the symptoms reported are mostly restricted to upper respiratory tract infections such as fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, and runny nose. But recent data from December 2023 by the UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) spotted two new symptoms: trouble sleeping and anxiety. Over 10 per cent of people with covid in the UK have consistently reported anxiety or excess worrying since early November, revealed the winter covid report from the ONS.

> **Over 10% of people with covid in UK reported anxiety or excess worrying since early November**

The most common covid-19 symptoms are runny nose (31.1 per cent), cough (22.9 per cent), headache (20.1 per cent), fatigue (19.6 per cent), muscle pain (15.8 per cent), sore throat (13.2 per cent), trouble sleeping (10.8 per cent), and anxiety (10.5 per cent), the data showed. Interestingly, the once-common loss of taste and smell is currently reported in only 2–3 per cent of UK cases. But whether a person will experience some or all of these symptoms, including those that have not previously been commonly reported, largely depends on each individual's health and immunity to the virus.

The findings come at a time when there is a fresh global rise in covid infections. As per the WHO, the global number of new covid-19 cases has increased by 52 per cent during the last one month. The UN health body also reported an increase in hospital and ICU admissions as well as deaths globally. Meanwhile, India recorded 573 fresh cases of covid and two deaths in the last 24 hours, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Tuesday.

The total number of active cases stands at 4,565. The country reportedly also has a total of 197 cases of JN.1 from 11 states: Kerala, Goa, Gujarat, Odisha, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha, and Delhi. "Overall cases are mild, and severity is seen in only less than 10 per cent of the cases, and only when people have previous comorbidities involving lungs and old age," Dr Kirti Sabnis, Infectious Disease Specialist, Fortis Hospital Mulund, told IANS. **– IANS**

Metro practically running on empty?

Study shows Namma Metro's actual ridership in 2021 stuck at just nearly 6% of what was projected in DPR

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

According to a report by IIT-Delhi and Delhi-based think tank The Infravision Foundation, ridership of most metro rail systems in India is a mere 25-30 percent of projected ridership (as mentioned in the Detailed Project Report (DPR) which outlines the intended objectives of a project). It showed that while the Bangalore Metro (Phase-1) ridership projection in the DPR stood at 16.1 lakh for 2021, the actual ridership remained a mere 0.96 lakh, accounting for 5.96% of the forecast projection. It is to be noted that 2021 was a year that witnessed recovery from the covid pandemic.

The report titled 'A framework for selecting an appropriate urban transport system in Indian cities' noted that the metro rail systems have not been able to achieve their estimated benefits during the time of the project approval as their revenue generation is solely dependent on the actual ridership.

According to it, India has 905 km of operational metro network in nearly 20 cities. However, a majority of these operational metro systems have significantly fallen short from achieving their projected ridership.

On the other hand, the study has also stressed on the need for a robust public transport system in all cities, even those with expansive metro connectivity as most city residents' daily commute is "less than 10 km in length regardless of densities and incomes".

The findings show that road-based bus systems prove to be effective for trips under 5 km, while high-performance modes like metros shine on journeys exceeding 10 km.

> **"As per the estimated affordability of public transport, a household with a monthly income of Rs 36,000 can afford only Rs 80 per person per day in a household with 10% benchmark of affordable transport system**

Losses to boot

A report titled 'Implementation of Metro rail projects — An appraisal (2021-2022)', by the standing committee of Union ministry of housing and urban affairs (MoHUA), which was tabled in Parliament in 2022, noted that Namma Metro is incurring mounting losses since 2016-17.

The report stated the actual average daily ridership (AADR) of Bengaluru Metro was 1.4 lakh in 2016-17, 3.4 lakh (2017-18), 4.5 lakh (2018-19), 4.8 lakh (2019-20), and 0.9 lakh only in 2020-21 (Covid and lockdown), against the AADR required for breakeven of 7.6 lakh, 10.09, 12.3, 13.1 and 18.5 lakh, respectively in the same period.

The committee had observed that the failure of most rail networks in terms of carrying passengers enough to break even, despite several years of continuous operations, shows faults in DPRs, lack of proper planning to provide first- and last-mile connectivity and provision of parking at metro stations, while also highlighting the need for increase in catchment areas.

Affordability factor

The study highlighted that the choice of public transport system is also determined by the affordability to the end users. "As per the estimated affordability of public transport, a household with a monthly income of Rs 36,000 can afford only Rs 80 per person per day in a household with 10% benchmark of affordable transport system. This cost will include fare for last mile connectivity and provided that no other member in the household incurs travel expenditures.

If two people in the household are to travel by public transport system or motorised mobility, then the maximum fare of Rs 40 can be borne by each. Similarly, a household earning Rs 12,000 a month can afford only Rs 26 per person per day to meet the travel needs," the report said, noting that very few urban districts in India have over 10% of the population with a monthly income greater than Rs 36,000. At a fare of Rs 40 per trip, the study said "only 10-18% of the population can use a public transport system".

Phone falls on metro track, woman jumps right after

In a shocking incident, a woman took a risky plunge onto the Metro track, where a power of 750 KV electricity coursed through, all in an attempt to retrieve a mobile phone she had accidentally dropped, on Tuesday.

The unsettling event unfolded at the Indiranagar Metro Station around 6:45 pm on Monday. Upon spotting the woman venturing onto the tracks, quick-thinking security personnel promptly raised the alarm with the control room. Subsequently, the electricity supply was disconnected, averting what could have been a tragic outcome.

As a consequence of this development, Metro services on the Purple line experienced a 15-minute disruption during the evening peak hours. Addressing the incident, the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) clarified on Tuesday that the occurrence at the Indiranagar Metro Station was triggered by a mobile phone inadvertently dropped by the woman.

Security personnel had to activate safety devices to ensure her well-being. Upon successfully recovering her phone, the woman, assisted by a co-passenger, safely returned to the platform. BMRCL staff had to reset the safety devices for the restoration of normal Metro services.

The disruptions from around 6:40 pm to 6:55 pm led to crowding on the Kempegowda Majestic station among other stations on the Purple Line. In the commotion that occurred as a consequence of the incident in the metro station, the woman managed to escape the metro station without being held accountable by BMRCL officials.

BMRCL has noted that they have been able to capture the woman's face and her actions through the CCTV cameras on the premises. They have also assured that she will be caught if an attempt is made to enter any of the metro stations in the future. **BMB**

Number plate tampering can be criminal offence

Whopping 1,13,517 individuals apprehended for using flawed number plates in 2023 alone

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

As the police ramp up online-to-offline surveillance, traffic violators try to manipulate both officers and cameras. But, city police won't have any of it. They have started filing criminal cases against such violators. Around 22 persons faced criminal charges last year alone.

Post 2023, after cameras being set up, as many as 2,49,624 cases were booked in contact enforcement while 87,25,321 were processed through contactless penalty methods.

A police official said, "With the city police increasingly relying on contactless enforcement, a number of vehicle users attempt to dodge the cameras by using either faulty nameplates or concealing them to obscure their identity. However, law enforcement has taken proactive measures by launching targeted campaigns specifically aimed at apprehending those employing defective plates."

According to the official, in 2023 alone, a whopping 1,13,517 individuals were apprehended for using flawed number plates, while 1,535 were caught driving without any plates. "We executed special drives against drivers without proper registration number plates or those operating with defective plates. Notably, 22 criminal cases were filed against individuals who deliberately obscured the visibility of their number plates with the malicious intent of deceiving enforcement cameras and officers."

Suresh Kumar, a professor, said he had witnessed such violations in the city recently. "I was standing near Mallasandra bus stop when I saw three youths trying to speed away on a bike. There were cops standing near the bus stop. To evade the cops' eyes, the guy sitting pillion kept his bag over the number plate, so that cops could not note down the number."

Another police officer said they too have seen more people trying to hide one number in registration plates or using fake plates so that they can evade cameras. "Earlier, cops used to stand on the road to catch violators, so much so that these spots were infamously termed penalty corners. However, now, we have orders from the top that we should not catch violators unless there is visible violation. Plus, more advanced cameras have been installed. Those who are under the impression that they can get away with violations at night or when there is no cop around are wrong, as these cameras are always functional."

The city witnessed a surge in accidents, recording 890 fatal incidents in 2023, resulting in the loss of 909 lives. Last year saw 4,095 accidents, leading to injuries to 4,021 individuals.

A substantial sum of Rs 184.83 crore was collected in fines from traffic violators.

The police also escalated their efforts in tackling drunken driving.

Reservoir water levels plunge to critical lows

Inadequate monsoon causes big dip in water levels of Karnataka's major reservoirs, raises drinking water alarm for upcoming summer

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

File photo of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam

Due to the inadequate monsoon last year, major reservoirs in Karnataka presently have low water levels, pushing the state to the edge of a drinking water crisis in the upcoming summer season. According to data from the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Center (KSNDMC), the current water level of Cauvery Basin reservoirs is 45 per cent of their total capacity, while Krishna Basin reservoirs are holding water at 42 per cent of their total capacity.

The gross capacity of Cauvery Basin reservoirs is 114.57 TMC, and the current water level stands at 52.07 TMC. Similarly, the present storage level of Krishna Basin reservoirs is 180.42 TMC, significantly below the total water capacity of 422.45 TMC. Last year, Cauvery Basin reservoirs had 82.71 TMC of water, and Krishna Basin had 331.93 TMC.

The Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) Dam, a crucial source of water for Bengaluru, is at 41 per cent storage compared to total capacity. The water level in the dam is at 20.39 TMC against its total capacity of 49.45 TMC. Kabini, another important reservoir for Bengaluru, is slightly better at 68 per cent storage. The current water level in the reservoir is 13.34 TMC, while its total capacity is 19.52. Overall, the cumulative live storage capacity of all 13 reservoirs in Karnataka is a little over 43 per cent.

The current water level of Cauvery Basin reservoirs is 45% of their total capacity

Experts say that while water levels in reservoirs are much lower compared to last year, the already low stocks are expected to fall further. However, this is not the first time, and if used judiciously, drinking water scarcity over the summer of 2024 can be avoided.

"We have witnessed large-scale rainfall deficits in the monsoon season. Normal or above-normal rainfall was seen only between July and August, as per the Indian Meteorological Department. October was practically a dry month this season. To retain above-normal water levels, these dams have to be filled two to three times by good rainfall which did not happen this time. Last year around this time, the reservoirs were holding water up to nearly 80 per cent of capacity. However, this is a drought year, and a situation like this is expected. If dam authorities judiciously use the water reserve and store enough for drinking water purposes, we will be able to sail through.

We have landed in this situation on multiple occasions in the past and have managed well," said a city-based hydrology and groundwater expert.

HRBR Layout's collapsed rajakaluve wall awaits fixing

Nearly 50% of wall has collapsed and BBMP is accused of showing no urgency in setting it right

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Debris inside the Challekere Lake due to the flooding

The collapsed retaining wall of Rajakaluve near Challekere, Lake KR Puram constituency, is causing parts of the HRBR Layout to flood. Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials plan to clear the debris inside Rajakaluve on a priority basis. For the past three years, during heavy monsoons, several areas of HRBR Layout have experienced flooding. Lake activists state that the retaining wall of the Rajakaluve leads to Challakere Lake.

For the past three monsoons in HRBR Layout, flooding has persisted along Rajakaluve, despite cleaning and de-silting efforts. Residents in the affected region have suffered losses as water rushed into their houses. Rajakaluve from HRBR Layout runs under Ring Road into Chellekere Lake. Nearly 50 per cent of the Rajakaluve wall has collapsed, leading to sewage stagnation and a foul smell. We have been raising the issue since May, but BBMP officials have been closing it without resolution. Every year, a few lakhs are spent on the Rajakaluve maintenance, and BBMP should proactively address these issues," said activist Christopher Cruz. A resident of HRBR layout said that during the heavy rains, water enters the houses at least 20 times. "During heavy rains, water enters the houses. One of our neighbours lost his car as water rushed into the basement. We have seen at least 20 occurrences in the past year. We suspect a vested interest behind the breaking down of the retaining wall. No water is reaching the lake. The situation of Chellekere Lake will be similar to Banaswadi Lake soon." said Prashanth, a resident.

"A few months ago, there was leakage in the STP wall and the power to the STP was cut. Estimated 20-30 lakh were spent in rejuvenating the lake years ago," Rajesh, a lake volunteer. BBMP officials told Bangalore Mirror that they will take steps to restore the retaining wall."Some officials visited the spot. We will clear the debris on priority and soon will get the wall restored" said a BBMP official.

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Foul smell
Kalasipalya

The persistent foul odour from the uncleaned drainage pipes at 5th Cross, Kalasipalya New Extension, makes it very difficult to visit shops in the area.

Pedestrian safety
Meenakshi Road

With no footpath and the entire area covered by BESCOM, it's a nightmare for thousands of people who walk on this road every day. Furthermore, there are no streetlights, raising concerns about the safety of pedestrians.

Public disarray
Kogilu

The area near Kogilu Cross on the Bangalore-Bellary (KIA Airport) Road remains uncleared, as it seems to serve as both a footpath and a dumping yard. Despite repeated reports to BBMP and traffic police, no action has been taken.

Bengaluru airport in top 10 global on-time performers' list

The airports at Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been ranked second and third among the top ten global airports in terms of operational performance and punctuality, according to a report released on Tuesday.

In the 2023 On-Time Performance (OTP) Review prepared by aviation analytics firm Cirium, there are a total of three Indian airports -- Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Kolkata -- and one Indian carrier -- IndiGo.

With an OTP of 84.42 per cent, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport is at the second spot in the global airports as well as large airports categories. Kempegowda International Airport is in the third position in both segments with an OTP of 84.08 per cent, Cirium said.

Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport in the US has topped both lists with an OTP of 84.44 per cent.

In the medium airports category, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport in Kolkata is ranked ninth with an OTP of 83.91 per cent.

The medium airports category is topped by Osaka International Airport in Japan with an OTP of 90.71 per cent.

India's largest airline IndiGo has an OTP of 82.12 per cent. It is ranked eighth in the low-cost carriers category and is at the fourth spot in the Asia Pacific segment.

The low-cost carriers segment is topped by South Africa's Safair with an OTP of 92.36 per cent.

In the Asia Pacific category, Japan's All Nippon Airways is at the top with an OTP of 82.75 per cent, followed by Japan Airlines (82.58 per cent) and Thai AirAsia (82.52 per cent) at the second and third places, respectively.

An on-time flight is defined as a flight that arrives within 15 minutes of the scheduled gate arrival. For an airport, it is defined as departing within 15 minutes of its scheduled departure, as per Cirium.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing civil aviation markets, with rising air passenger traffic and more airports are also coming up.

In a release, Cirium said the position of the most on-time global airline went to Avianca Airlines, based in Bogota, Columbia.

There are no Indian carriers in the global category.

A global airport is one having 25-40 million seats and actual gate departure coverage of 80 per cent or better. Also, such an airport must serve at least three regions, including its own region.

Similar are the parameters for the large airports category.

Medium airports are those having 15-25 million seats and an actual gate departure coverage of 80 per cent or more. **-PTI**

Pollution board finally sets sights on dirty sites

After prolonged period of inactivity, state pollution control board takes steps to start remedial measures on 6 contaminated and 19 probable contaminated sites

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After being work-shy for nearly three years, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has decided to act upon six contaminated and 19 probable contaminated sites across Karnataka. The list of these sites, which includes five contaminated and seven probable contaminated sites in Bengaluru, was published by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in December 2020.

As per the CPCB's list, the five contaminated sites in the city are Goripalya near Mysore Road, Mangammanapalya near Hosur Road, Peenya Industrial Area, Mavallipura dumpsite near Yelahanka, and Begur Lake. The list of probable contaminated sites includes Lalbagh Lake, Madiwala Lake, Hebbal Lake, Bellandur Lake, Kengeri Tank, Arekere Lake, Agara Lake, and Begur Lake.

> **"The board will soon be drawing remediation plans for the contaminated sites and handing them over to a private agency for remediation**
>
> –Prabhash Chandra Ray, Member Secretary, KSPCB

According to Prabhash Chandra Ray, Member Secretary, KSPCB, the board is looking at categorising the sites into those requiring detailed study and delisting the rest.

"CPCB has not given us any details on parameters considered to declare these sites as contaminated or probable contaminated. As per our observation and study conducted by the Environment Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), only one out of five sites listed by CPCB in Bengaluru is contaminated. Moreover, the private agency that owns the only contaminated land has already taken remedial measures to decontaminate it. KSPCB officials are working on preparing a list of the rest of the sites that are contaminated and require remediation work. We will reach out to CPCB to get the remaining sites delisted," said Ray.

The board will soon be drawing remediation plans for the contaminated sites and handing them over to a private agency for remediation, he added.

KSPCB will select the agency through a tender process.

CPCB first came up with a list of 280 'contaminated and probable contaminated' sites across the country in December 2020, out of which 25 were found in Karnataka. Out of these 25 sites, five were found to be in Bengaluru. The sites encompass production areas, landfills, dumps, waste storage and treatment sites, mine tailings sites, spill sites, chemical waste handlers, and storage sites.

In October 2022, KSPCB communicated with CPCB about actions taken to revive the 25 sites. However, the report submitted by KSPCB was considered inadequate by the central pollution watchdog, and it directed KSPCB to carry out sampling of soil, groundwater, surface water, and sediments based on site-wise requirements from at least three to four locations in each site.

CPCB also directed the state pollution control board (KSPCB) to ascertain the extent and nature of contamination and submit an 'action taken' report to CPCB within two months. While the study was to be completed by January 2023, KSPCB has yet to get started with the sample collection process to carry out the study.

Suds success story

State-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) sold detergents worth Rs 123.42 crore in December 2023 to record the highest transactions for the past 40 years.

In a press statement released on Tuesday, Karnataka Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil stated that KSDL had manufactured and supplied a record 852 tonnes of detergents to the market in December 2023. Before this, 775 tonnes of detergents manufactured during September 2023 stood as the highest output.

In a bid to expand the market for its products, KSDL has taken several measures including introducing three shifts on work from the earlier single shift. Besides, the number of machines deployed for making detergents has been increased to three in place of one machine that was previously used to operate. These steps have been taken to make KSDL competitive with private players.

Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd sells detergents worth Rs 123.42 crore in December 2023 to record the highest transactions for the past 40 years

Earlier, the primary focus was on the marketing of soaps. But, a few months ago it was decided to concentrate on expanding the market presence for detergents also and this has yielded an inspiring result, the Minister has explained.

He has also emphasised that the marketing for KSDL products would be expanded all across the country.

The production in the Soaps, Detergents and Cosmetics division also has surpassed the levels that it achieved in the previous year.

The entity posted a profit of Rs 118 during the previous year. So far, it has seen transactions worth Rs 1171.07 crore in the nine months of the current fiscal. MB Patil has expressed confidence that KSDL will reach the target of Rs 1,404 crore set for the year 2023-24. **-ANI**

Rethinking exams: Open-book format

Group of experts suggest that govt consider open book exams to reduce anxiety linked with traditional testing

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Open-book exams put less demand on memory

A committee of experts has recommended to the state government the consideration of introducing open-book exams in undergraduate courses to alleviate the fear associated with traditional examinations. In response to a student's tragic suicide following a cheating incident, the government formed a committee comprising vice chancellors and educationists to propose potential measures, with open-book exams being one of the suggested options. A source said, "This could be one of the possibilities for making students ready for exams. Let's see what the government has to say about this."

The All India Council of Technical Education also advocates for the adoption of open-book exams, highlighting the limitations of traditional written examinations in promoting rote learning and superficial application of knowledge. Open-book exams, designed to allow students to reference class notes, textbooks, or approved materials while answering questions, are particularly beneficial for assessing higher-order thinking skills such as application, analysis, and evaluation. However, careful consideration must be given to selecting courses or curriculum areas best suited for open-book exams within a programme.

Advantages of open-book examinations include being less demanding on memory, reducing stress, emphasising problem-solving and higher-order thinking, and reflecting real-life situations that require comprehension and synthesis skills. Designing effective open-book exams involves setting questions that require students to actively engage with information, moving beyond mere location and summarisation.

In 2018, the then Primary and Secondary Education Minister N Mahesh announced the potential introduction of an 'Open Book Examination' system, with a few schools experimenting with the concept. Initially, some schools conducted 25-mark tests for Class 5 to 10 students, allowing them to refer to textbooks during the one-hour test. The question paper format was modified to ensure that understanding the basics of a lesson was essential for finding answers even with reference materials.

The CBSE also contemplated incorporating open-book exams, intending to provide case studies in advance rather than allowing books inside the exam hall. The open-book section, carrying a 20% weightage, would feature questions based solely on the provided case studies in subjects like biology, economics, geography, and one additional subject. The aim is to move away from rote learning and foster a deeper understanding and application of concepts.

Beware of 10-day MBA crash course

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the authoritative body overseeing technical education in India, has recently issued a cautionary notice to students regarding the proliferation of fraudulent 10-day MBA crash courses. This advisory comes in response to the promotional activities of a motivational speaker who has been advertising a 10-day MBA programme, targeting aspiring students. The Union Education Ministry has underscored the importance of AICTE recognition for any institution offering MBA programmes in the country.

Abhay Jere, Vice-Chairman of AICTE, highlighted the issuance of an advisory against what he referred to as 'fake MBA' programmes, particularly those aimed at the youth. It has come to the attention of AICTE that certain motivational speakers and influencers are enticing individuals with the promise of completing an MBA in just 10 days. Jere emphasised that this notification serves as a crucial alert to all stakeholders, signalling that such crash courses are not only misleading but also inappropriate.

Jere, citing a Supreme Court judgement, reiterated that no educational institution or university is permitted to conduct technical courses, including MBA programmes, without obtaining prior approval from AICTE. The AICTE further clarified that an MBA, being a comprehensive two-year postgraduate degree course, cannot be condensed into a mere 10-day timeframe.

This stern warning aims to caution stakeholders, including potential students, against falling prey to deceptive offers.

Simultaneously, AICTE has started an initiative to enhance transparency and streamline the approval processes for technical and management programmes.

Professor TG Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE, said, "For the first time, the draft of the handbook was made available to the public domain to encourage opinions, suggestions, and feedback from various stakeholders and experts."

–BMB

Canadian study permit applications see drop

The Indian demand for Canadian education declined significantly, with the number of study permit applications processed going down by more than 40 per cent since July 2023, according to newly released data.

The Canadian government processed almost 146,000 new study permit applications for Indian nationals from July to October 2002.

But across the same period in 2023, it processed fewer than 87,000, representing a year-over-year decrease of 41 per cent, data released by ApplyBoard, an online platform for international student recruitment, it said.

This means that almost 60,000 fewer student visas were processed for Indian students from July to October 2023 than over the same period in 2022.

From January to June 2023, the Canadian government processed 25 per cent more study permit applications from Indian students than it did over the same period in 2022. The sharp drop comes even as the Canadian government announced last month that it will more than double the cost-of-living financial requirement for incoming international students beginning January 1, 2024.

Almost 60,000 fewer student visas were processed for Indians

So going forth, a single applicant will need to show they have 20,635 Canadian dollars ($15,181) in addition to their first year of tuition and travel costs.

Negative sentiment on social media

While it remains to be seen how the announcement will impact international students in terms of numbers, the reason for the drop in the later part of 2023 was attributed to a growing number of Indian students taking to social media to speak about the hardships they faced in Canada, specifically calling out the high cost of living and lack of opportunity promised.

The ApplyBoard found that between April and August of 2023, the number of articles written about housing in Canada increased fivefold versus the same period last year.

The impact of the India-Canada row

The data further said it is unlikely that the India-Canada relations, which nosedived following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's claims in September 2023, will depress the volume of study permit applications processed from India. According to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada (IRCC), 80 per cent of study permit applications from Indian students processed between August and November were processed within three weeks.

Indians take the lion's share

Of about 8,00,000 international students currently studying in Canada, 3,20,000 are from India, and students from Punjab roughly make up about 70 per cent of them. According to an IRCC release, international education accounts for more than 22 billion Canadian dollars ($16 billion) in economic activity annually.

This is greater than Canada's exports of auto parts, lumber, or aircraft and supports more than 200,000 jobs in Canada, the release said.

–IANS

UK student visa ban on dependents

International students starting courses this month in the UK will no longer be able to bring their family members, following restrictions to student visa routes coming into effect on the New Year.

A near-eightfold rise in the number of dependents joining foreign students led the UK government to announce the ban in May last year for those not studying "high-value" degrees under government plans.

The changes have also seen people banned from using the student visa as a backdoor route to work in the UK and will see an estimated 140,000 fewer people come to the UK, the Home Office said on Tuesday.

"Yesterday, a major part of that plan came into effect, ending the unreasonable practice of overseas students bringing their family members to the UK. This will see migration fall rapidly by the tens of thousands and contribute to our overall strategy to prevent 300,000 people from coming to the UK," Home Secretary James Cleverly said in a statement.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimated that net migration was 672,000 from June 2022 to June 2023.

In the year ending September 2023, 152,980 visas were issued to dependents—a more than 930 per cent rise from the 14,839 in the year ending September 2019.

The changes to student dependency rules are part of a wider package of measures to come into force this year.

According to the government, it will drastically bring down the high numbers of migrants coming to the UK to sustainable levels and crack down on those who take advantage of the flexibility of the UK's immigration system. –IANS

Environment oversight: Unqualified appointments

Controversy unfolds as BJP, Congress governments face accusations of posting unqualified hands at environmental bodies amid concerns over integrity of project assessments, environmental impact

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The composition of the State-level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) and the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) suggests that neither the BJP nor the Congress government is immune to appointing individuals unsuitable for the respective positions. In 2021, the BJP government in the state faced criticism for nominating ineligible members to the SEAC and SEIAA. Similarly, the current ruling Congress government has been accused of making a similar mistake by appointing six ineligible members to the SEAC. It is noteworthy that the government has repeated the same mistake, despite environmentalists vehemently opposing the previous government for appointing ineligible members to the SEAC and SEIAA.

It may be recalled that on August 31, 2023, the Principal Secretary of the Forest, Ecology & Environment Department wrote letters to the Registrars of Universities and government departments, advising them to submit resumes of eligible candidates for recommendation to the Government of India for nomination to the SEAC and SEIAA. The Principal Secretary urged them to send the resumes of candidates by September 15, 2023.

The State Forest Department submitted the resumes of B Guruprasad and Dr Lakshmikanth for nomination to the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority. It is important to note that B Guruprasad gained notoriety for the wrong reasons on December 19, 2012. Guru Prasad, who served as the Chief Engineer of the Karnataka Housing Board, was among the government officials raided by the Karnataka Lokayukta. Guruprasad was found to possess assets valued at over Rs 1,83,10,410 in the year 2012.

> **"In this regard, the State Government is requested to resubmit a clear proposal with additional expert members for the SEAC**
> – Sundar Ramanathan, Scientist-E

BM on July 31, 2021, published a story on how environmentalists were against the nomination of ineligible people to the environment regulatory bodies

"The candidates recommended for nomination to the SEAC and SEIAA are not eligible. I have complained about their nomination to the SEAC and SEIAA. I want the state government to select qualified people as members of SEAC and SEIAA," said Parisaravadi Chowdappa.

Once again, environmental bodies find themselves in the wrong hands, signalling a repetition of missteps by the government

Meanwhile, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Impact Assessment Division) issued a letter on December 27, 2023, to the Karnataka Principal Secretary of the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment. The letter stated that the justification provided by the State Government concerning the observations raised by the Ministry for the other six members is not deemed satisfactory. Therefore, the six members listed below may not be eligible as per the provisions of Appendix VI of the EIA Notification 2006. The members not qualified are Dr Varun Chandra Alur, Ravi Kumar Yadav BV, Megharaja Yeri, Dhruva Kumara BY, Dr Sangamesh Kolliyavar, and Krithika Alanahally.

"In this regard, the State Government is requested to resubmit a clear proposal with additional expert members for the SEAC, including the Member Secretary, as per the provisions of the EIA Notification 2006," stated the letter sent by Sundar Ramanathan, Scientist-E.

Criticising the authorities for recommending inappropriate individuals to the SEAC, Dr AN Yellappa Reddy, retired Secretary of the Forest Department, emphasised that the purpose of nominating members to the SEAC is to identify the adverse impact of projects or developmental works on the environment and propose remedies.

"What can ineligible members do to detect adverse impacts, suggest remedies, or make corrections if they lack knowledge about the environment? The state government and politicians have turned the SEAC and SEIAA into centres for collecting money by appointing ineligible members. These members are unlikely to question government projects that affect the environment," said Reddy

IN BRIEF

Zomato cashes in on NYE bonanza

Buoyed by record food orders on New Year's Eve, the food delivery platform Zomato increased its mandatory platform fee to Rs 4 from Rs 3 per order across key markets. The new rates became effective from January 1. On New Year's Eve, Zomato temporarily increased its platform fee to as high as Rs 9 per order in certain markets. The company's shares opened high on Tuesday after the international brokerage firm CLSA remained bullish on its stock. In August last year, Zomato introduced a Rs 2 platform fee to improve its margins and become profitable. Zomato later increased the platform fee to Rs 3 before raising it again on January 1 to Rs 4. . Meanwhile, Zomato received notices from the tax authorities in Delhi and Karnataka over alleged short payment of goods and services tax (GST) upto to Rs 4.2 crore. Zomato said it will appeal against the tax demand notices. This came after Zomato received a Rs 400 crore show-cause notice from the goods and services tax authorities over unpaid dues collected as "delivery charges." – IANS

Groom arrested for demanding dowry

A groom was arrested and sent to prison for demanding dowry in Belagavi district of Karnataka, officials said on Tuesday. The incident took place in Khanapur town, and the man identified as Sachin Patil was sent to Hindalga Prison. According to the police, the bride's family had initially agreed to give 50 grams of gold and Rs 1 lakh cash to the groom. The marriage was arranged at the Lokamanya Choultry. However, as the marriage date approached, the groom's family demanded 100 grams of gold and Rs 10 lakh cash. When the bride's family refused to meet this new demand, the accused Sachin Patil called off the marriage. Subsequently, the bride's family, who had made all the arrangements, lodged a complaint against the groom with the Khanapura police. – IANS

Nrithyakuteera's dancers gear up for Republic Day parade

The six students selected from Bengaluru's Nrithyakuteera to perform at the Republic Day parade

Six students from Nrithyakuteera, a dance academy based in the city, will be taking part in the Republic Day parade held in Delhi on January 26. It is one of the four institutions from Karnataka selected to participate in the parade and showcase the classical art of Bharatanatyam.

Nrithyakuteera, a dance institute in the city, was established by the dance guru, Vidushi Deepa Bhat. The institute has gained a reputation for its emphasis on both traditional and folk dance techniques. Students Manasa Subbarao, Anagha Kashyap, Nidhishree J Karanth, Harinishree J Karanth, Lakshmi PR, and Deeksha are now gearing up to showcase their talent at the Republic Day parade to be held on Karthavya Path in Delhi.

Selection Process and Training

The selection process for the Nrithyakuteera students participating in the Republic Day parade was rigorous and competitive, said the academy in a statement. The Ministry of Culture in association with Sangeet Natak Akademi conducted a national-level online classical/folk dance competition titled 'Vande Bharatam' to select dance troupes from all over the country. Students are chosen based on their talent, dedication, and proficiency in their art form. The selection committee is said to evaluate their technical skills, expressions, and stage presence to ensure the highest standards are maintained.

Once selected, the students undergo intensive training and rehearsals for close to one month in Delhi, under the guidance of experienced choreographers and instructors. "They tirelessly work on perfecting their dance routines, synchronizing their movements, and enhancing their expressions. The training sessions not only focus on the technical aspects of all dance forms but also instil a sense of discipline, teamwork, and stage presence in the students," said Nrithyakuteera.

"The planning and logistics involved in organising this trip were as intricate as the graceful moves they (dancers) execute on stage. From booking train tickets that were on the waiting list to getting them confirmed under the emergency quota with the help of officials of the Karnataka government and arranging accommodations, the team at Nrithyakuteera left no stone unturned to ensure a smooth and comfortable journey for their dancers," the academy explained the ordeal of their journey.

This is the first time a team comprising around 1,500 artists from across the country has already reached Delhi for continuous training of six hours daily under the guidance of professional choreographers for one month. The training is currently undergoing in Central Sangeet Natak Akademi. A total of 250 people will perform classical dance. Besides the thrill of performing in the Republic Day parade, the Nrithyakuteera students are excited about the cultural exchange, exposure, and learning curve that Delhi has to offer to them. — BMB

Gandhi Bazaar Main Road a work in progress

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

before the work started. Traders BM spoke to said although the stretch is open unofficially, reduced road width is posing a lot of traffic issues. Inadequate parking space and long walks that shoppers have to endure from the parking area to the market are proving to be dampeners.

"Business is nowhere close to usual. Earlier, the car parking facility for the market could accommodate 200 vehicles.

Now it has been reduced to just 60. Traffic situation has deteriorated due to the reduced width of the road; so shoppers are avoiding the market. Even if the road is opened officially, we are not expecting the situation to improve.

Even after the car parking facility is ready over the next couple of years, shoppers will still have to walk nearly 600-800 metres and carrying heavy bags. We have lost nearly 50% of business," said M Venkatesh, president of Gandhi Bazaar Traders' Association.

Shop owners further noted that the only solution is to widen the road by incorporating the nearly 2.5 feet wide landscape area on either side of the stretch.

"There is nearly five feet of area left for landscaping. That space should be included in the main road. This can be done without doing

KAUSHIK JN

much damage to the footpath. Although we have spoken to the zonal commissioner of BBMP regarding this provision, we are yet to hear back," said a shop owner along Gandhi Bazaar Main Road.

Residents of the area said the issues of footpath encroachment and lack of space on paths for pedestrians are issues yet to be resolved.

"The path for pedestrians is being used by shoppers to park vehicles as there is a lack of adequate parking space. Moreover, the iron frames that were installed by BBMP for street vendors have not been cleared yet. The civic agency was supposed to remove these structures in October.

However it is not done yet; it is taking up a lot of space on the pavement. Many shops have used up the footpath area and have refused to clear out despite repeated warnings from the BBMP," said Guru Prasad, a resident of the area and secretary of Heritage Basavangudi Residents' Welfare Forum.

According to BBMP officials, strict action will be taken soon against shop owners who have encroached upon the path of the pedestrian.

"As far as street vendors' space is concerned, we are working out on the design aspects. As soon as the design is finalised, we will create a model and set it up after tearing away the iron canopy that is currently in place.

We will install a mock up sample and people will be allowed to comment on the usefulness of the structure. We will finalise the design only after we receive public feedback. As far as encroachment of pavement area by shop owners is concerned, there is a provision to request BBMP's health department to cancel the trade licence of repeated offenders. We are planning to exercise this provision," said Lokesh.

Dispensaries, hospitals 'sans information officers'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ESISMS returned the applications submitted by Govindaraju BR, a resident of Borasandra village, Tarikere post, Kunigal taluk stating that there are no information officers at dispensaries and hospitals situated at 20 locations, including Mangalore, Basavanagudi, Dasarahalli, Hubli, Jigani and Kunigal.

Govindaraju lodged a complaint with the additional chief secretary, department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on January 1 seeking a direction to the department of Employees State Insurance Scheme Medical Service to appoint the state public information officers for its offices situated across the state and to take necessary action against the officials for not implementing the Section 5(1) of the RTI Act.

The Section 5(1) of the RTI Act states that every public authority shall, within 100 days of the enactment of this Act, designate as many officers as the central public information officers or state public information officers, as the case may be, in all administrative units or offices under it as may be necessary to provide information to persons requesting for the information under this Act.

Expressing shock over the reply from the administrative officer of ESISMS, Veeresh BH, trustee of Mahiti Hakku Adhyayana Kendra, said that it is the responsibility of the administrative officer to forward the applications, received from the applicants, to the authorities concerned.

"It is wrong to return the applications stating that there is no information officer at a particular dispensary or hospital. If there is no information officer, the administrative officer has to take measures to appoint information officers at the dispensaries and hospitals. It is the administrative officer's responsibility to collect the information and send it to the applicant," said Veeresh.

When contacted, JC Venkateshaiah, administrative officer, ESISMS, said applicants have to submit applications at the designated dispensaries and hospitals to get the information or data pertaining to those dispensaries and hospitals.

"There are information officers at the dispensaries and hospitals across the state," Venkateshaiah said but he had no answer when asked why he sent back 20-odd applications stating that there are no information officers.

Meanwhile, ESISMS director Dr V Varadaraju said the administrative officer has to provide information if there are no information officers at particular dispensaries and hospitals maintained by the ESISMS.

"It is wrong to send back the applications without providing information sought by the applicant or applicants. I will direct the administrative officer of the ESISMS to provide the information," said Dr Varadaraju.

Your Connect

real estate

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

HIGH Roof Factory Building 4000 sft for RENT, Ground floor, East facing at Peenya 2nd stage. Ph.9845031063

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ACADEMIC

TEACHER

VIDYA VAHINI SCHOOL, Affiliated to CBSE, Nagarbhavi Bangalore. Requires Candidates for Grade 7 to 10 (All subjects). Interested candidates forward your resume to what'sapp number- 9686282423. For the school to contact.

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVES

REQUIRED Executive – Tours: Graduate having 3 to 5 year's experience in Travel Trade / Service Industry. Should be result oriented who enjoys customer interaction & should have basic computer knowledge and willing to take a sales oriented challenging job. Mail your resume to: manu@skywaytour.com / WhatsApp : 9845118222, www.skywaytour.com

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

SALES

WANTED Sales Exec.(M), Telesales Exec.(F),DigiMktg Exec.(F) for Co. nr. Murugeshpalya, imedt. join. send resume jobs4ucareeratblr@gmail.com

GENERAL

WANTED
Branch Managers
Female Telecallers
Sales Managers
Sales Executives
Freelancers
Salary 15k to 1lakh Plus Incentives. Call:
9071615300, 78299 56789
Work Location
M.G Road, RT Nagar, Vasanthnagar, Mysore Road, Nagawara, Shivajnagar, Yelahanka.
hrjp365@gmail.com

THE TIMES GROUP
Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

MEDICAL

MEDICAL

PARIVAR SEVA
Established 1978
STREE CLINIC OF PARIVAR SEVA SANSTHA
Leading National Level not for profit company working in the field of Sexual & Reproductive Health at PAN India
Require: Bengaluru

FEMALE STAFF NURSE
Job Summary:
- Can Assist in OT During Procedures.
- Handling Pre/Post-Operative Care.
- Can Handle Documentation.

Qualification : Diploma in General Nursing Registration under Respective State Nursing Council.
Work Experience : Minimum 2 Years OT & Gynae

SALES OFFICER
Job Summary:
- To achieve area sales target & collections.
- Ensuring Stockists are appointed in each territory as per the marketing. strategy and following the organizational policies.
- Promoting new products and any special deals.

Qualification : Graduate/Post Graduate Only male candidates can apply.
Work Experience : Minimum 2 Years
Salary : Negotiable
Contact : 7703950419
E: recruitment@parivarseva.org

OTHER PROFESSIONALS

ARCHITECTS

WANTED 3d visualizer or Architects with 3d experience contact Montimers Architects, Koramangala. Ph: 9108281566

OTHER VACANCIES

MULTIPLE VACANCIES

PATEL GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS
Kariyammana Agrahara, Behind Sakra World Hospital, Bellandur, Bengaluru 560103
WE ARE HIRING
- LIBRARIAN (MALE) (M.Lib.I.Sc.)
- STATISTICS PROFESSOR (M.B.A. or Ph.D)
- MATHS PROFESSOR (M.Sc.)
- ECONOMICS PROFESSOR (M.A.)
- ADMISSION COUNSELLOR
- FINANCE PROFESSOR (MBA or Ph.D)
- TELECALLER
- FRONT DESK EXECUTIVE (FEMALE)
- HOSTEL WARDEN (MALE)
- LAW PROFESSOR (LLM)

Contact: 9513710003
HRexecutive@pateledu.com

PART TIME JOBS

GLOBAL International India's No.1 Registered Club. Part-Time Job,M&F Daily Income 10,000 to 15,000 PF & ESI. WhtsApp 9886958499/9886959077

PART TIME JOB OPPORTUNITY for Retirees /VRS, & Self Employed by a Reputed MNC in Bangalore. Call: 99027 49632/8861791147

TECHNICAL

GENERAL

MOULD DESIGNER Having 4-5 yrs experience in Plastic moulds, Capable to work on Wild fire software Email: anmurthy@polywin.co.in Contact: 9845005576

business

LOANS

Sahara Finance
30% Subsidy
5 LAKHS to 500 CRORES
BUSINESS,PROPERTY,PERSONAL, project Home, Loan,5% PA. Agents Welcome Contact 9634455473, 9205924683

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Osman Shahi Shaik R/o Pruksa Silavana, Villa No - Vk 14, Budigere Cross,bommenhalli, Bangalore -560049, Karnataka,india have changed my minor daughter's name from Zaara Os Shaik to Zaara Shaik.

I, JOICE MARY DEIVANAYAGAM W/o Nandakumar Athi, R/at No.71, 6th Cross, Pavamana Nagar J.P.Nagar, 8th Phase, Bangalore- 560076, have changed my name to JAYANTHI NANDAKUMAR vide affidavit dated: 30/12/2023 before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, DEVENDRAKUMAR MUNU NAIDU S/o. Munuswamy Naidu, Resident at No. G-1308, Purva Skywood, Silver County Road, Kudlu, Bengaluru-560068 have changed my name to DEVENDRA NAIDU vide affidavit dated 02-01-2024 Sworn before notary B.M.Chandrashekar, Bangalore

I Ashwini Satyanarayana D/O, Sathyanarayana R/o No 31, Opp 7th Cross, Venkateshwara Layout, Near Slv Sapphire Apartment, Abbigere. Bangalore 560090 have changed my name to Ashwini Sathyanarayana .

I, Jignesh Jaswantlal Shah R/o B-301, Pride Pavilion, 2/1, 1st stage, 6th phase, WOC road, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru 560010 have changed my minor son name DEV to DEV JIGNESH SHAH affidavit Dt.02/01/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Sidhant Srivastava S/O, Sanjeev Srivastava R/o 108 Veni Sjr Verity, Kasavanahalli Off Sarjapur Road have changed my name to Sidhant Sanjeev Srivastava.

I Seetharaman Venkatraman S/o of TS Venkataraman R/o Doddakannalli, Sarjapur Road Bangalore 35 has changed my name from Seetharaman V to Seetharaman Venkatraman for all future purposes

I Saritha Jaganathan W/o Madhan 12 Om Nivas, 3 Flr,2 Cross,tavarekere,bangalore - 29 has changed my name from Saritha Mazrenkar to Saritha Jaganathan for all purposes.

I, Anirudh S/O, Vasantha Kumar R/o No A-107 Purva Pavilion Kempapura Hebbal Bengaluru have changed my name to Anirudh Vasantha Kumar for all purposes.

I Xavier Malcolm Menezes S/O, William Menezes R/o #14/1 1 St Cross Vivekananda Nagar Banaswadi Main Road Bangalore 560033 have changed my name to Javer Menizes .

I, Uthkala W/o, Vasantha Kumar R/o A-107 Purva Pavilion Kempapura Hebbal Bengaluru have changed my name to Kottigera Ramegowda Uthkala for all purposes.

THE TIMES GROUP
Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

LOST & FOUND

DOCUMENT LOST
I Prakash V. R/o No.127, 4th Main Road, Nanjappa Layout, Adugodi, Bangalore -560030 stating that sale deed of Nanjappa Layout, 55th Division of the property bearing No. 46/1 was accidentally lost on 27.12.2023 in Majestic. I have submitted a complaint (LR No.0859174/2023) to Bangalore City Police in this regard. If anyone finds the above said sale deed, they are requested to contact the above address or mobile number 8150860386

HEALTH TIP: Probiotics may prevent the development of harmful bacteria in the body, lower cholesterol levels, reduce constipation, control blood pressure

Vitamin D supplements do not strengthen bones or protect children with vitamin D deficiency from fractures

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Think you're good at multi-tasking?

Here's how your brain compensates – and how this changes with age

We're all time-poor, so multi-tasking is seen as a necessity of modern living. We answer work emails while watching TV, make shopping lists in meetings and listen to podcasts when doing the dishes. We attempt to split our attention countless times a day when juggling both mundane and important tasks.

But doing two things at the same time isn't always as productive or safe as focusing on one thing at a time. The dilemma with multi-tasking is that when tasks become complex or energy-demanding, like driving a car while talking on the phone, our performance often drops on one or both.

Here's why – and how our ability to multi-task changes as we age.

Doing more things, but less effectively

The issue with multi-tasking at a brain level, is that two tasks performed at the same time often compete for common neural pathways – like two intersecting streams of traffic on a road.

In particular, the brain's planning centres in the frontal cortex (and connections to parieto-cerebellar system, among others) are needed for both motor and cognitive tasks. The more tasks rely on the same sensory system, like vision, the greater the interference.

This is why multi-tasking, such as talking on the phone, while driving can be risky. It takes longer to react to critical events, such as a car braking suddenly, and you have a higher risk of missing critical signals, such as a red light.

The more involved the phone conversation, the higher the accident risk, even when talking "hands-free".

Generally, the more skilled you are on a primary motor task, the better able you are to juggle another task at the same time. Skilled surgeons, for example, can multitask more effectively than residents, which is reassuring in a busy operating suite.

Highly automated skills and efficient brain processes mean greater flexibility when multi-tasking.

Adults are better at multi-tasking than kids

Both brain capacity and experience endow adults with a greater capacity for multi-tasking compared with children.

You may have noticed that when you start thinking about a problem, you walk more slowly, and sometimes to a standstill if deep in thought. The ability to walk and think at the same time gets better over childhood and adolescence, as do other types of multi-tasking.

When children do these two things at once, their walking speed and smoothness both wane, particularly when also doing a memory task (like recalling a sequence of numbers), verbal fluency task (like naming animals) or a fine-motor task (like buttoning up a shirt). Alternately, outside the lab, the cognitive task might fall by wayside as the motor goal takes precedence.

Brain maturation has a lot to do with these age differences. A larger prefrontal cortex helps share cognitive resources between tasks, thereby reducing the costs. This means better capacity to maintain performance at or near single-task levels.

The white matter tract that connects our two hemispheres (the corpus callosum) also takes a long time to fully mature, placing limits on how well children can walk around and do manual tasks (like texting on a phone) together.

For a child or adult with motor skill difficulties, or developmental coordination disorder, multi-tasking errors are more common. Simply standing still while solving a visual task (like judging which of two lines is longer) is hard. When walking, it takes much longer to complete a path if it also involves cognitive effort along the way. So you can imagine how difficult walking to school could be.

> **The issue with multi-tasking at a brain level, is that two tasks performed at the same time often compete for common neural pathways**

What about as we approach older age?

Older adults are more prone to multi-tasking errors. When walking, for example, adding another task generally means older adults walk much slower and with less fluid movement than younger adults. These age differences are even more pronounced when obstacles must be avoided or the path is winding or uneven.

Older adults tend to enlist more of their prefrontal cortex when walking and, especially, when multi-tasking. This creates more interference when the same brain networks are also enlisted to perform a cognitive task.

These age differences in performance of multi-tasking might be more "compensatory" than anything else, allowing older adults more time and safety when negotiating events around them.

Older people can practise and improve

Testing multi-tasking capabilities can tell clinicians about an older patient's risk of future falls better than an assessment of walking alone, even for healthy people living in the community.

Testing can be as simple as asking someone to walk a path while either mentally subtracting by sevens, carrying a cup and saucer, or balancing a ball on a tray.

Patients can then practise and improve these abilities by, for example, pedalling an exercise bike or walking on a treadmill while composing a poem, making a shopping list, or playing a word game.

The goal is for patients to be able to divide their attention more efficiently across two tasks and to ignore distractions, improving speed and balance.

Times when we do think better when moving

Let's not forget that a good walk can help unclutter our mind and promote creative thought. And, some research shows walking can improve our ability to search and respond to visual events in the environment.

Often, it's better to focus on one thing at a time

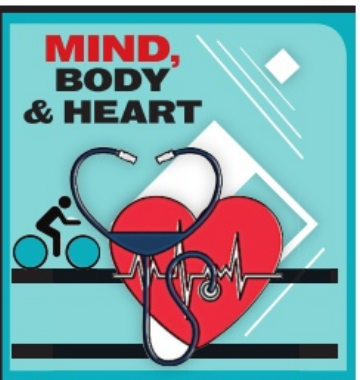
We often overlook the emotional and energy costs of multi-tasking when time-pressured. In many areas of life – home, work and school – we think it will save us time and energy. But the reality can be different.

Multi-tasking can sometimes sap our reserves and create stress, raising our cortisol levels, especially when we're time-pressured. If such performance is sustained over long periods, it can leave you feeling fatigued or just plain empty.

Deep thinking is energy demanding by itself and so caution is sometimes warranted when acting at the same time – such as being immersed in deep thought while crossing a busy road, descending steep stairs, using power tools, or climbing a ladder.

So, pick a good time to ask someone a vexed question – perhaps not while they're cutting vegetables with a sharp knife. Sometimes, it's better to focus on one thing at a time.

(By Peter Wilson, Australian Catholic University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Early meals

Risk of heart attack
Are you one of those people who skip their first meal of the day or eat a late breakfast and dinner? Beware, you may be at risk of heart attack, warns a study.

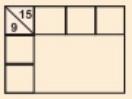
8 am to 8 pm
The study suggested eating the first meal of the day at 8 am and dinner by 8 pm to avoid risk of cardiovascular disease.
Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death in the world according to the Global Burden of Disease study, with 18.6 million annual deaths in 2019, of which around 7.9 are attributable to diet. This means that diet plays a major role in the development and progression of these diseases.

Don't skip breakfast
The study by French research institute INRAE – National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment showed that having a first meal later in the day (such as when skipping breakfast), is associated with a higher risk of cardiovascular disease, with a 6 per cent increase in risk per hour delay.

Eating healthy
For example, a person who eats for the first time at 9 am is 6% more likely to develop cardiovascular disease than someone who eats at 8 am. When it comes to the last meal of the day, eating late (after 9 pm) is associated with a 28% increase in the risk of cerebrovascular disease such as stroke compared with eating before 8 pm, particularly in women. A longer duration of night-time fasting -- the time between the last meal of the day and the first meal of the following day -- is associated with a reduced risk of cerebrovascular disease.

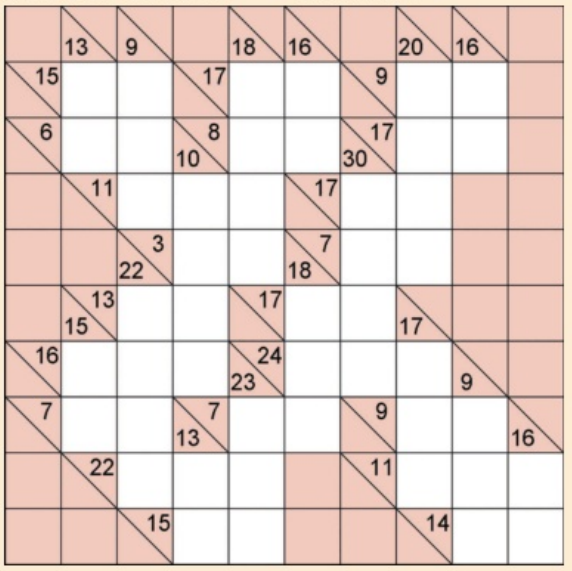
Meal timings and heart health
The findings highlight a potential role for meal timing in preventing cardiovascular disease. IANS

Kakuro

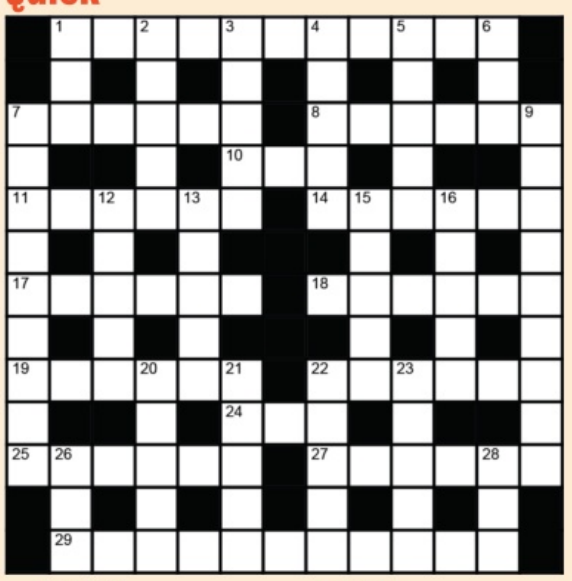


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS
1 Affiliation (11)
7 Required (6)
8 Past pupils (6)
10 Make mistakes (3)
11 Mystical (6)
14 City in Uttar Pradesh (6)
17 Monastery or abbey (6)
18 Inequitable (6)
19 Bring __ ____ : make person answer for conduct? (2,4)
22 Boil gently (6)
24 Long fish (3)
25 Cluttered (6)
27 Going __ ___ : walking? (2,4)
29 Profligate (11)

DOWN
1 To imitate (3)
2 Hindu ascetic (5)
3 Military student (5)
4 Sudden fear; a warning sound (5)
5 Harden by habituation (5)
6 Not, as a prefix? (3)
7 Rice noodle delicacy of Karnataka (4,5)
9 Translate (9)
12 Go up (5)
13 Slow musical tempo (5)
15 Utter boredom (5)
16 Kingdom (5)
20 Sheep-like (5)
21 ___ in: typed (5)
22 Laziness (5)
23 Civilian clothes (5)
26 Video game mfr. (3)
28 Not at home (3)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: T EQUALS G

VSP WPOBCZT MD OJJ TMMB HMMYG CG JCYP O NMZRP-WGOVCMZ ACVS VSP DCZPGV LCZBG MD FOGV NPZVQWCPG.

Linemaro

Let's never stop looking at each other

Mindchow

Although gold dust is precious, when it gets in your eyes, it obstructs your vision

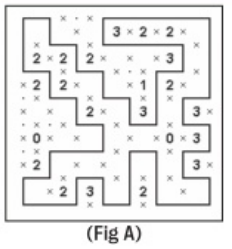
Joke of the day

Ironically, the National Portrait Gallery is actually wider than it is tall

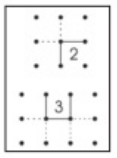
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



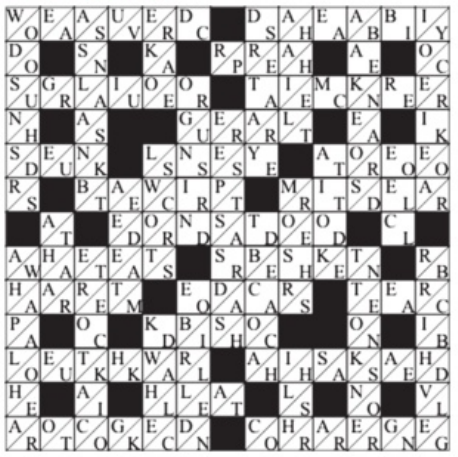
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

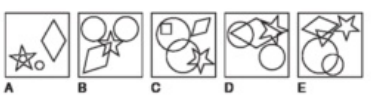
1	2	3	4	5
6				F
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS
1 Go ism; 6 A fool;
7 Let or; 8 A glee;
9 A lion

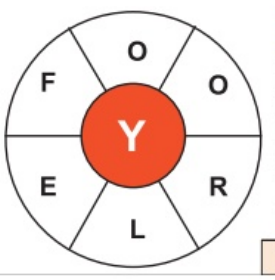
DOWN
1 Algae; 2 Leal I;
3 Gor so; 4 I loom;
5 Of net

Mensapuzzle

To which of the squares below can a dot be added so that the dot then meets the same conditions as the dot in the square above?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			1		7		3	
6	5	1	2					
2			6	4				8
8		5					9	4
1	2					8		7
9				2	4			3
					6	1	4	5
	4		3		8			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4
2 5 8 9

Medium = 56
2 7 9 9

Hard = 57
2 6 9 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

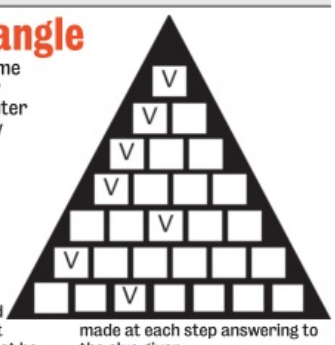
Differences: 1. Fingers are not showing. 2. Lamp is different. 3. Side of pillow is different. 4. Curtain is not as wide. 5. Collar is different. 6. Picture is moved.

Riddler

Which is the odd one out: Andy Murray, Roger Federer, Andre Agassi, Rod Laver?

Alpha triangle

1 Five in ancient Rome
2 May 8, 1945: _ Day
3 Desert Storm fighter
4 Green, in heraldry
5 Affix firmly
6 Moral goodness
7 Small stream



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

WHAT'S IN THOSE BUFFALO HORNS YOU CARRY, MR. JERKYMIAH ?
WAL, TH' ONE ON MY LEFT SIDE IS FER GUNPOWDER, AND TH' ONE ON MY RIGHT SIDE IS FER TOBACCO
9-30
OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND ?

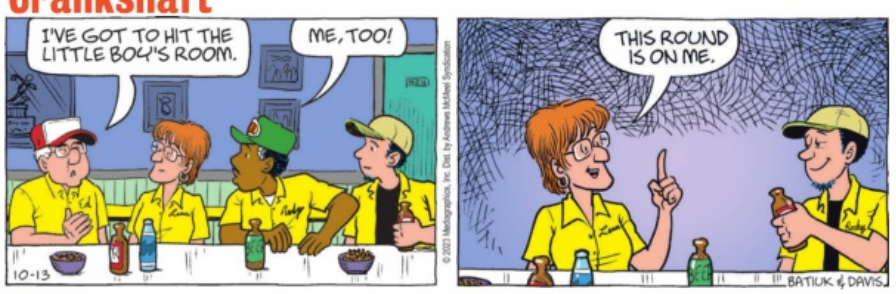
Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

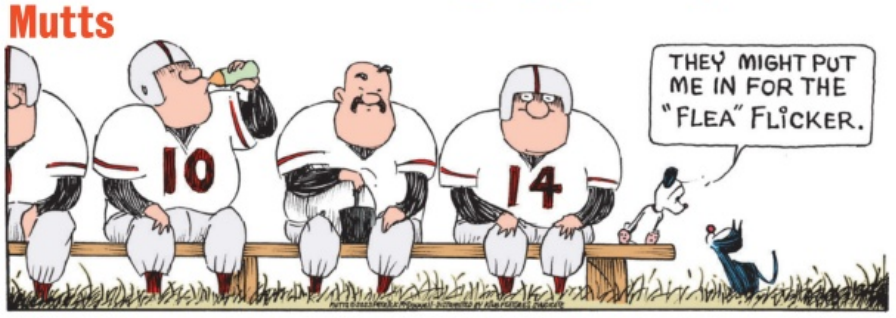
Hart of the city

WE'RE GONNA DO THE TRIVIA CONTEST.
I HAVE A TON OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE, AND BRENT HAS AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF USELESS KNOWLEDGE. WE MAKE A GREAT TEAM.
I'D ARGUE THAT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF NIKE'S AIR JORDAN LINE IS VERY USEFUL.

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may face health issues that could make you impatient. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. Spending your hard-earned money on worthless items may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on trivial topics to prevent potential breakups.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may meet an influential person who can help you progress in your work. Your network will strengthen with their assistance. Prepare to implement new ideas in your work or business, and consider investing more capital for potential financial gains. In terms of domestic life, you'll be busy with family gatherings and social events.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, your mother's health may be good. You'll enjoy your work, receive rewards for your hard work, and gain increased social respect. Overworking may make you tired, and due to your workload, you may miss some family events.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be satisfied with your work and plan a short work-related trip. Consider visiting a religious place for inner peace. Your mentors may guide you, providing clarity regarding your goals.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel dull and experience health issues. Postpone investments in your business and avoid starting new ventures, as losses are likely. Your gains may turn into losses.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel good, enjoying domestic harmony. Meeting influential people for work benefits is likely. Expect good performance in your job, with possible rewards like promotions. Disputes over inherited property may settle.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be healthy and focused on your goals, performing well at work. Expect important responsibilities and potential promotions. Good news may come in legal matters, and you're likely to control opponents and business rivals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may seek knowledge and control your short temper. There are chances of smooth earnings and comfort in your work. Be cautious before making new investments. Spend money on loved ones, and lovebirds may enjoy happy moments.

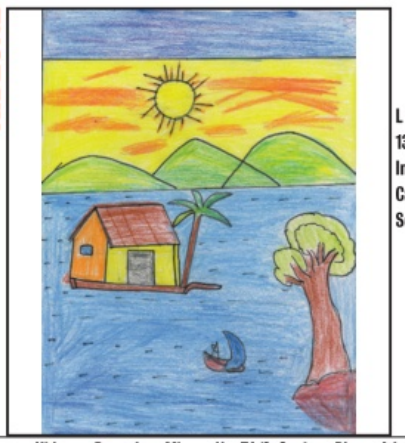
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel dissatisfied and detached from your responsibilities. Plan your projects practically to complete them on time. Take care of your parents and consider postponing any plans to migrate.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today is a positive day for you. Success in your hard work on the professional and domestic fronts is likely. Maintain focus, complete tasks on time, and expect work-related short trips that can benefit your network.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy with domestic issues and spend money on household items. Control unnecessary spending to avoid negative energy. Be mindful of your speech with people around you.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel comfortable after a challenging situation. Your vitality can help implement difficult decisions in your parental business, fostering its growth. Helping needy people may enhance your social respect. Students might gain clarity in choosing their career options.

KIDZONE



L Nagaveni, 13 Years, Indranagar Cambridge School

Vaishnavi Anand, 14 Years, Royale Concorde International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
30/100×300+X/100×50=60/100×400
90+X/2=240
X/2=240-90
X=300

STRIKE OUT

W	E	A	V	E	D		S	H	A	H	A	B	B	Y
O		S		K		P	E	A		A		O		
U	G	L	I	E	R		T	I	C	K	E	R		
N		A		U	R	A	L		E		K			
D	U		N		S	N	E	E		T	R	E	E	
S	T	A	C	I	T		M	I	S	E	R			
A		D	O	N	A	T	E	D		L				
W	H	E	A	T		R	E	S	E	T		B		
H	A	R	M		O	D	A	S		E	A	R		
A		O		D	I	S	C		N		I			
L	E	T	H	A	L		H	I	S	S	E	D		
E		I		L	E	A	S		O		L			
F	I	S	H		A	R	G	U	E					
R	O	C	K	E	D		C	H	A	R	G	E		

QUICK

S	P	E	N	D		T	H	R	I	F	T			
E		N		E		T		U						
U	N	T	I		D	Y		O	N		O	O	T	
T		V		E		L		U		E				
T	O	B	O	O	K		S	I	M	E	R			
U		M		G		U		N		L		P		
P	R	I	O	R	Y		U	N	F	A	I	R		
L		L		A		N		E		E				
O	C	C	U	L	T		M	E	E	R	U	T		
N	E	E	D	E	D		A	L	U	M	N	I		
P		A		L		N		O						
S	P	E	N	D	T	H	R	I	F	T				

MENSA PUZZLE
D: so the dot appears in the diamond and circle only.

QUOTE UNCODE
The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries.

SUDOKU

4	9	8	1	5	7	6	3	2
6	5	1	2	8	3	4	7	9
2	7	3	6	4	9	5	1	8
8	3	5	7	6	1	2	9	4
7	6	4	8	9	2	3	5	1
1	2	9	4	3	5	8	6	7
9	1	6	5	2	4	7	8	3
3	8	2	9	7	6	1	4	5
5	4	7	3	1	8	9	2	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
V, VE, Vet, Vert,
Rivet, Virtue,
Rivulet.

LOOP
Easy
5 + 9 - 8 - 2 = 4
Medium
9 x 7 + 2 - 9 = 56
Hard
2 x 4 x 6 + 9 = 57

GO FIGURE

KAKURO

13	9	6	17	8	9	20	16	5
9	2	7	9	6	8	17	3	1
15	4	2	6	1	7	30	8	9
6	1	3	7	17	8	9		
22	3	1	2	16	7	6	1	
7	6	9	24	9	7	8	9	
16	9	5	2	23	9	6	3	1
15	5	9	4	17	8	9	17	
14	7	8	15	9	6	11	3	1
5	9	16	7	8	9	14	5	9

FAST FIVE

A	L	O	I	N
E	A	G	L	E
L	E	R	O	T
A	L	O	O	F
G	I	S	M	O

RIDDLER
Andy Murray.
Out of the four players he is the only one who hasn't won a career Grand Slam.

BULL'S EYE
flyer, FOOLERY, foyer, lyre, rely, yore

Volume No 17, Issue No 003 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

In her eyes

Fans turn sleuths as they try to figure out whose reflection is in Rashmika's shades

Rashmika Mandanna shared a video of herself enjoying at an exotic location for New Year, possibly captured by Vijay Deverakonda.

The reflection in her shades hinted at a man Rashmika Mandanna had recently shared a video of herself where she was seen enjoying herself at an exotic location as she rang in the New Year. Fans speculate that the video was taken by none other than her rumoured beau Vijay Deverakonda.

While the video itself doesn't explicitly disclose the identity of the person behind the camera, some keen observers noted in the reflection of Rashmika's shades that it appeared to be a man recording her on a smartphone.

Several fans echoed this observation in the comments, speculating that it might be Vijay Deverakonda capturing the video. Furthermore, Vijay Deverakonda posted a new video on his Instagram, extending New Year wishes from New York.

The juxtaposition of these videos seems to lend credence to fans' speculations that the two are possibly enjoying their New Year vacation together. Rumours of a romance between Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna have been circulating for a considerable period. The duo initially shared the screen in the Parsuram-directed film 'Geetha Govindam' and later collaborated as leads in 'Dear Comrade.

–ETimes

Vacation with beau

Actress Taapsee Pannu, who is receiving good response to her recently released film 'Dunki', is currently enjoying her vacation at her favourite destination the Maldives.

The actress rang in the New Year with her Mathias Boe, and her sister Shagun Pannu. They rang in New Year 2024 together.

Taking to her Instagram, the 'Manmarziyaan' actress shared pictures from the celebration.

The first picture shows her posing with her sister Shagun Pannu. The actress wore a blue saree with a golden border which she paired with a white blouse. She wrote in the caption, "Entering 2024 with smile and saree". The next picture shows the actress sitting on her boyfriend's lap, and hugging him. "And a hugs," wrote Taapsee Pannu, while sharing the picture.

In another story, she wrote, "And beauty," as she posed with her sister, and their friends. "And music!!!!" read her last story, which showed a group of boys sitting around a long dining table, and enjoying some music.

–IANS

'Deeply shocked'

Telugu star NTR Jr, who was in Japan from the past one week, is deeply "shocked" by the earthquakes hitting the 'land of the rising sun', and shared that he has returned to India safely.

At least 48 people have died after a series of powerful earthquakes, with the major one measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, hit central Japan and the surrounding areas, causing homes to collapse and triggered tsunami warnings.

Taking to X, the 'RRR' actor wrote: "Back home today from Japan and deeply shocked by the earthquakes hitting. Spent the entire last week there, and my heart goes out to everyone affected. Grateful for the resilience of the people and hoping for a swift recovery. Stay strong, Japan".

Meanwhile, he is currently gearing up for his upcoming film 'Devara'. The actor shared a new poster from the film on January 1, showcasing him in an intense and fierce look.

–IANS

In Blake's home

Actress Blake Lively has given fans a rare glimpse of the lavish home she shares with her actor husband Ryan Reynolds.

The Hollywood star shared a throwback photo of herself which displayed details of her bedroom and hallway as she posed in the glittering gold gown she wore to attend a Michael Kors fashion show in New York City as part of New York Fashion Week back in September, reports 'Mirror.co.uk'.

Blake, 36, posed beside the unmade bed in the rustic looking property with bare wood and beams on show in the interior of their home.

As per 'Mirror.co.uk', the 'Gossip Girl' star also shares her dwelling with the couple's four children - James, Inez, Betty, and their nine-month-old baby whose name they have not yet revealed.

Behind Blake a large bath can be seen in the bathroom and a long hallway running alongside it further into the property. It is unclear which of the couple's homes she was in.

They own both a Manhattan apartment, and a larger property in Pound Ridge, New York that the couple purchased in 2012 for a rumoured $5million. Like others celebrating the end of 2023, Blake shared her favourite memories of the past year on Instagram. The image featured in a carousel of photos that included her and some family members at Disneyland in Paris.

–IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Hot or cold?

Director Aravind Sastry's latest film Bisi Bisi Ice-Cream (don't ask us!) is scheduled by the end of this month. Prior to this, Sastry has helmed Kahi and Alidu Ulidavaru. "I got a state award for the best screenplay for my maiden movie Kahi. Bollywood actor Atul Kulkarni played a key role in Alidu Ulidavaru that was released in 2019. Now, I am making a comeback after four years. I made a conscious effort to narrate the story in as entertaining a manner as I know," says Sastry.

The director said the shooting of Bisi Bisi Ice-Cream is over and its post-production work is at the final stages. "The movie is a mix of dark comedy and crime. The story is set in Bengaluru and revolves around the city's nightlife. It revolves around a cab driver and a woman escort," the director said.

Aravind Iyer and Siri Ravikumar are the lead pair. The director said the hero, a cab driver, is undergoing depression due to some reasons, including traffic woes. "What happens to the hero after he meets the heroine is the story," he said.

Devotion to music

Ajay Warrier, a playback singer from Bengaluru, is busy with music programmes not only in the city but also abroad. Warrier who hails from Kerala and lives in the city used to work at a private company in Kuwait before taking a plunge into singing.

"Due to my passion towards classical vocals, I would bring out devotional songs audio cassettes whenever I would visit Bengaluru while working in Kuwait. Impressed by my passion towards music and singing, veteran music director V Manohar advised me to focus only on that. I followed his advice by quitting the job to pursue my career as a playback singer," says Warrier.

Warrier quit the job in Kuwait exactly 23 years ago. "I quit my job on January 1, 2001. Till date, I have sung 24,000 devotional and movie songs in 17 languages. My favourite song is Jum Jum Maya from the Kannada movie Veera Madakari. Anuradha Bhat and I sang that under the guidance of music director MM Keeravani," he said.